This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 8, 2006. Claims 1-24, 38, 41, 44 and 45 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 13, 24, 41 and 45 are in independent form. Claims 1-8, 10, 13-19, 21, 24, 38, 41, 44 and 45 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 18, 20, 24, 40, 41, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0032218 A1 (Huang).

.   Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21-23, 38, 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,317 (Sasaki).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 13, 24, 41 and 45 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus for generating image data by processing document data. The apparatus includes: (1) storage means for storing document data described in a predetermined structured description language, wherein the document data contains at least one character of a first font size; (2) analysis means for analyzing the document data stored by the storage means and recognizing the first font size contained in the document data, and for recognizing the character contained in the document data to which the first font size

is applied; (3) instruction input means for, when providing a print instruction, entering, via an operation panel, information relating to a second font size to be used for formatting the document data for printing on at least one print page, the second font size being different from the fist font size; (4) image forming means for executing an image forming process such that data representing the character recognized by the analysis means is outputted for printing on the at least one print page on which contents of the document data are laid out at the second font size entered by the instruction input means instead of the first font size contained in the document data; and (5) printing means for printing data based on print data formed in the image forming process executed by said image forming means. The document data does not include a concept of page.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 are: (1) instruction input means for, when providing a print instruction, entering, via an operation panel, information relating to a second font size to be used for formatting the document data for printing on at least one print page, the second font size being different from the fist font size; and (2) image forming means for executing an image forming process such that data representing the character recognized by the analysis means is outputted for printing on the at least one print page on which contents of the document data are laid out at the second font size entered by the instruction input means instead of the first font size contained in the document data.

Huang relates to a method for producing structured documents with user-defined document type definitions and providing a document conversion process for converting an unstructured document into a metafile and modifying the metafile in accordance with received document type definitions (paragraphs [0003], [0011], and [0013]). Huang discusses a DTD file, which may correspond to the claimed first font size (paragraphs [0066] and [0067]), and

generating image data of a first font size designated by the DTD file. However, Huang is silent as to a second font size. Accordingly, Applicants have found nothing in Huang that would teach or suggest "instruction input means for, when providing a print instruction, entering, via an operation panel, information relating to a second font size to be used for formatting the document data for printing on at least one print page, the second font size being different from the fist font size" or "image forming means for executing an image forming process such that data representing the character recognized by said analysis means is outputted for printing on the at least one print page on which contents of the document data are laid out at the second font size entered by said instruction input means instead of the first font size contained in the document data," as recited in Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record, including Sasaki, has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 1.

Independent Claims 13, 24, 41 and 45 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1 and, therefore, are also believed to be patentable over the cited prior art for the reasons discussed above.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are, therefore, believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully

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requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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